

Charge Up Safety! **Promoting Battery Recycling Safety**

Safety-related and fire incidents involving hoverboards, headphones and laptops are making headlines. Many of these incidents are being traced to batteries being shipped between locations, further amplifying safety concerns within the battery industry.

The greater risk for potential safety incidents results from a variety of factors in North America that have converged in recent years:

- Batteries are packing more power in smaller packages, especially Lithium Ion batteries;
- Sales of battery-powered products, including cellphones, laptops, power tools and other cordless devices, are increasing, especially for products where the battery cannot be easily removed;
- The complexity of battery types and chemistries is growing exponentially;
- Counterfeit batteries, often of inferior quality, have an increased presence in the marketplace;
- Smaller, thinner and lighter product designs are challenging safety by not allowing for the physical expansion of batteries due to heat.

Call2Recycle's *Charge Up Safety* initiative is designed to raise the awareness of the stakeholders involved in the battery recycling process to take the necessary safety procedures to prevent incidents. These stakeholders include consumers, municipalities, retailers, sorters, processors and Call2Recycle employees. With education, those involved in battery recycling can protect both people and property from injury or damage.

Call2Recycle continually assesses and enhances its safety and compliance practices to ensure safety policies are being embraced across the network. The company works closely with its collection sites to educate employees on battery safety as they collect and ship batteries. Sites that don't comply with the safety policies may face suspension or termination from the program.



Battery Safety

Battery-related incidents often result from a lack of information about battery safety. Rechargeable batteries can still hold a residual charge. When that battery's positive terminal (such as the raised terminal on an AA or AAA rechargeable battery) comes into contact with another object, such as another battery, the charge can be released through a thermal event, such as a spark or smoke. This may escalate into a fire or explosion, resulting in physical injury and property damage. Bagging batteries or taping their terminals is enough to protect against these incidents.

Call2Recycle advocates for secure handling throughout the battery's journey from collection sites to a sorting facility. We offer education materials, including a short training program on battery safety, shipping guidelines and safe handling of damaged batteries. For more information on Call2Recycle and *Charge Up Safety*, visit our [safety portal](#).

